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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You have revealed in Scripture, through the generations, and in our own experience, that You pour out Your power when there is unity, mutual esteem, and affirmation for the oneness of our patriotism. Bless us with Your Spirit so that we may disagree without being disagreeable, share our convictions without being contentious, and lift up truth without putting anyone down. Help us to seek to convince without coercion, persuade without pressure, motivate without manipulation. May we trust You unreservedly and encourage each other unselfishly.

God, bless America, beginning with these Senators on whom You have placed so much responsibility and from whom the people expect so much. You have brought them to this Senate at this time, not only for what You want to do through them in leading this Nation but also for what You intend to exemplify to the Nation in the way they live and work together. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 18, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the ESEA conference report with 2 hours and 30 minutes of debate prior to the 12 noon rollcall vote on the conference report.

Following this vote, we hope to have a vote on cloture on the substitute amendment to the farm bill.

There will be a recess following the cloture vote for the weekly party conferences.

Additional rollcall votes are expected as the Senate continues to work on the farm bill.

It goes without saying that we hope this is our last week here before the first of the year.

We expect other votes throughout the day on the farm bill.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

### NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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